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NOTIFICATION

Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission Fourteenth session

Geneva, 29 April–3 May 2024

The UNCTAD secretariat has the honour to invite member States to the fourteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, to be held from 29 April to 3 May 2024. The session will open on Monday, 29 April at 10 a.m. in room **XVII** of the Palais des Nations.

Background documents and agenda

The Commission provides an opportunity for member States and investment and development stakeholders to discuss key and emerging issues in the areas of investment and enterprise, and technology, and their implications for sustainable development, as well as policy solutions.

The provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Commission was approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that ended on 11 January 2024. The provisional agenda and annotations are contained in document TD/B/C.II/50.

A high-level panel will be convened to discuss investment facilitation for sustainable development. Senior policymakers, investment practitioners and business executives will review best practices in the implementation of business and investment facilitation policies in support of sustainable development, as well as ways forward in the use of digital business and investment facilitation tools, to develop wider electronic government practices. The discussions will be informed by a background note prepared by the secretariat titled “Business and investment facilitation: Stepping stones to digital government” (TD/B/C.II/51).

In addition, the Commission will consider the harnessing of blockchain technologies for sustainable development. The Commission will examine the challenges confronting developing countries in the application of blockchain technology and options for building capacities for blockchain innovation according to the developmental level of countries. Discussions at the Commission will allow for the identification of potential areas for international collaboration. The discussions will be informed by a background note prepared by the secretariat titled “Harnessing blockchain technologies for sustainable development” (TD/B/C.II/52).

The Commission will consider the report of the tenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development, which discussed recent developments, challenges and opportunities in sustainable economic diversification.

The Commission will also consider the report of the fortieth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, which discussed the current state of global financial and sustainability reporting frameworks, standards, codes and prospects for further harmonization; reviewed practical implementation and recent developments in sustainability reporting requirements; and examined the accounting and reporting needs of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises and the role of accounting and reporting in facilitating the formalization of businesses in the informal economy.

In addition, the Commission will examine progress made on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of work of UNCTAD in the areas covered by the Commission. The Commission will also be briefed by the secretariat on the latest developments in trends and policies in the areas of investment and enterprise and science and technology.

Participation and registration

This meeting is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general category, as well as investment promotion agencies, may participate as observers.

Online registration, at [Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, fourteenth session](#), is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required for inclusion in the list of participants. Early registration is advisable so that timely approval may be received for the issuance of a ground pass to the Palais des Nations. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this meeting. For government representatives, a note verbale or an email from the permanent mission concerned in Geneva will suffice.

Further enquiries regarding registration should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation in room XVII of the Palais des Nations. Those who cannot attend the meeting in person will be able to listen to the live audio stream in the six official languages of the United Nations. The link to listen live will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one day in advance of the start of the session.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to scan their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix. As part of the new system at the United Nations Office at Geneva, participants will receive a digital badge consisting of their photo, a quick response (QR) code and the name and date of the meeting. The digital badge will be sent to each participant by email once they have been accredited by the meeting organizer and should be downloaded to a mobile telephone or other mobile device. Participants may also print the digital badge in order to use the QR code. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations. Visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

For all other enquiries, please contact Mr. Hamed El Kady, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD, tel.: 41 22 917 2135, or Mr. Angel González Sanz, Head, Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, tel.: 41 22 917 5508.



Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UNCTAD
19 March 2024